

CULTURE, LEISURE AND TOURISM PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

17 March 2009

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Victor Tumilty (Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio Holder)

Officers: John Mennear, Assistant Director (Community Services)
Chris Wenlock, Parks and Countryside Manager
Steve Hilton, Public Relations Officer
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

24. **Playbuilder Project** *(Director of Adult and Community Services and Director of Children's Services)*

Type of decision

Key (test i applies)

Purpose of report

To seek approval to submit a play builder project plan to the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The submission of the action plan will release the play builder funding.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Department of Children, Schools and Families published a National Play Strategy in 2008. The strategy highlighted the importance of play and high quality play environments, setting out a play builder project which required local authorities to develop play areas.

Hartlepool Borough Council was notified on 26th February 2009 that it had been allocated £1,129,958. In order to release this funding the local authority needed to submit a project plan setting out the timescales for the development and or significant refurbishment of 22 play areas. The first 11 of these would need to be developed between April 2009 – March 2010. The remaining 11 to be completed by 31st March 2010.

Details of the 11 play areas to be developed between April 2009 – March 2010 were given within the report. All were play areas that had already been identified in current planning processes with a number already

having been consulted upon. The play areas to be developed in the second year of the play builder project would need to be fully consulted on. This would take place from April 2009 onwards. Suggested sites had already been identified including Rossmere Park.

The Portfolio Holder referred to the current status of Lynnfield School as being the only school in Hartlepool with out of hours access to its play facilities, suggesting that this should be promoted as a possible precedent throughout the Tees Valley area. He expressed his whole-hearted support for the Playbuilder Project. Play was an important part of family life and anything which promoted a healthy lifestyle should be encouraged.

Decision

That the project plan for submission to the Department for Children, Schools and families be approved.

The meeting concluded at 10.15am

PETER DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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